

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 SOE-02

DOE-15 INT-05 COME-00 AF-10 /135 W

-----008991 062321Z /61

R 060453Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1639

INFO AMEMBASSY ABUDHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

TEHRAN 2465

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IR, YS, SA

SUBJECT: IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ON SAUDI-PDRY RELATIONS

REF: (A) LONDON 5031 (B) MUSCAT 417 (NOTAL) (C) TEHRAN 967

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR JA'FAR RA'ED MADE OBSERVATIONS ON STATE OF SAUDI-PDRY RELATIONS DURING MARCH 26 VISIT BY TEHRAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR LAMBRAKIS AND EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER.

2. RA'ED SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS COMPLETELY STOPPED AID TO PDRY EXCEPT FOR FINANCING OF A FEW ALREADY-BEGUN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. SAUDI ARABIA HAS CEASED SENDING CRUDE OIL TO ADEN REFINERY, WHICH IN ANY EVENT IT HAD BEEN DOING ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF "THE PRETTY BLACK EYES" OF THE SOUTH YEMENIS, SINCE THE LATTER WERE CHARGING THE SAUDIS DOUBLE THE PRICE OF EUROPEAN REFINERIES.

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3. ACCORDING TO RA'ED ENTIRE SAUDI LEADERSHIP WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT SAUDI AID HAD NOT CAUSED ANY SHIFT IN PDRY'S POLICIES. WHEN ASKED IF HE INCLUDED ALL INFLUENTIAL SAUDIS IN THIS GROUP, RA'ED NOTED THAT CROWN PRINCE FAHD, WHO HAD BEEN LEADING SAUDI PROPONENT OF RECONCILIATION WITH PDRY, FELT PERSONALLY BETRAYED BY ADENI REGIME AND

WAS ESPECIALLY ADAMANT ABOUT CEASING AID TO PDRY. RA'ED
ADDED THAT FAHD NEVER MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAKE
PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI OVER THE COALS.

4. RA'ED ALLSO MENTIONED THAT ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO SAUDIS
HAD LIFTED RESTRAINTS ON SOUTH ARABIAN EXILE GROUPS AND
HAD ALLOWED THEM TO MAKE INCURSIONS INTO PDRY TERRITORY.
RA'ED SAW A CONNECTION BETWEEN RECENT REPORTS OF MILITARY
BASE CONSTRUCTION IN PDRY OPPOSITE SAUDI ARABIAN TERRITORY
AND THE RESUMPTION OF THESE RAIDS.

5. ON INTERNAL PDRY AFFAIRS, RAJED SAID THAT HE WAS CON-
VINCED THAT SALIM RUBAY ALI WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD
POWER MUCH LONGER AND THAT HE MIGHT BE DISMISSED AT PDRY
LEADERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THIS JUNE.

6. COMMENT: OUR CONVERSATION CONFIRMS THAT AMBASSADOR
RA'ED IS IRAN'S RESIDENT "EXPERT" ON PDRY MATTERS REFERRED
TO IN REF C. HE IS ONE OF THE BETTER INFORMED JIDDA
DIPLOMATS ABOUT SAUDI ATTITUDES ON REGIONAL QUESTIONS.
HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ARABIC, HIS SEVEN-YEAR RESIDENCE IN JIDDA,
AND HIS PERSONALITY HAVE ALL MADE HIM TRUSTED AND RESPECTED
BY THE SAUDIS. HIS CREDENTIALS ARE ENHANCED BY THE FACT
THAT HE REPRESENTS A CONSERVATIVE, POWERFUL ISLAMIC STATE
WHICH SHARES THE SAUDI'S DISTRUST OF AND UNEASE AT THE
ACTIVITIES OF RADICAL MOVEMENTS IN THE REGION.
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